

## Core Skills Analysis

### English

- Aiyana analyzed characters in 'Animal Farm', understanding their roles beyond the narrative to symbolize real historical figures.
- She developed interpretive skills by linking fictional character traits and actions to symbolic representations in the Russian Revolution.
- The activity encouraged critical thinking about allegory and the purpose of satire in literature, deepening her literary analysis abilities.
- Aiyana practiced summarizing complex historical ideas through character analysis, enhancing comprehension of both narrative and historical context.

### History

- Aiyana explored key figures and factions in the Russian Revolution, gaining insight into their motivations and impacts through the characters they inspired.
- She learned about historical events and power dynamics by comparing them with story elements from 'Animal Farm'.
- The activity helped her recognize how literature can reflect and critique historical realities through symbolism.
- It promoted understanding of historical context and the causes and consequences of revolution by connecting it to literary representation.

### Tips

To deepen Aiyana's understanding, encourage creating a detailed character map linking each Animal Farm character to their historical counterpart, complete with key traits and events. Hosting a debate where she defends or critiques the actions of characters/figures can stimulate engagement and critical thinking. Additionally, exploring other allegorical works or watching documentaries about the Russian Revolution can provide multi-modal learning experiences. Finally, writing a reflective essay or diary entry from the perspective of a character involved in the revolution sharpens empathy and historical insight.

### Book Recommendations

- [Animal Farm](#) by George Orwell: A political allegory using farm animals to represent figures and events from the Russian Revolution, highlighting themes of power and corruption.
- [The Russian Revolution: A New History](#) by Sean McMeekin: An accessible analysis of the Russian Revolution's causes, events, and major figures, suitable for young readers developing historical understanding.
- [Animal Farm Illustrated Edition](#) by George Orwell, illustrated by Ralph Steadman: A visual edition of Animal Farm that enhances comprehension through evocative illustrations correlating with the allegorical themes.

### Learning Standards

- GCSE English Literature: Understanding of allegory, character analysis, and themes (AO2, AO3).
- GCSE History: Knowledge of the Russian Revolution and ability to link historical events to cultural outputs (AO1, AO3).
- GCSE English: Critical evaluation of texts and contextual understanding (AO4).

### Try This Next

- Create a comparative character chart with columns for Animal Farm characters, their historical

counterparts, traits, and significant events.

- Write a short monologue from the perspective of an Animal Farm character explaining their motivations and reflecting on the revolution.

### **Growth Beyond Academics**

This activity likely fostered Aiyana's critical curiosity and empathy by encouraging her to see historical events through personalized characters. It also supported her confidence in making informed interpretations and drawing connections across literature and history, enhancing both cognitive and emotional engagement.